



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

Mary Ann Saar
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Episcopal Community Services Receives Federal Grant For Prisoner Reentry to Reduce Recidivism *Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services* *Partners with private, public agencies*

TOWSON, MD (November 10, 2005) – Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., today announced that the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor has designated the Episcopal Community Services of Maryland (ECSM) as a grant recipient of \$657,935 as part of its Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI). ECSM has provided matching resources of \$22,800.

The Baltimore-based ECSM was selected out of 549 applications for 30 grants in part because of proposed partnerships with Baltimore City's One-Stop Career Centers, Goodwill Industries and America Works. The project will recruit 200 adult male ex-offenders between the ages of 21 and 40 who have a history of drug and alcohol addiction.

"Nationally, these PRI grants will help reduce recidivism and the societal costs of reincarceration by helping ex-offenders find and keep employment when they return to their communities," said Governor Ehrlich.

Participants will be recruited through the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), and its pre-release program at the Metropolitan Transition Center, the Baltimore City Correctional Center and the Baltimore Pre-Release Unit. Through the use of partnerships, both public and private, ECSM's Prison Reform Initiative will provide employment readiness training, health and social services, legal services, parole adherence assistance and housing assistance.

Baltimore City's One-Stop Career Centers, Goodwill Industries and America Works will then provide such services as GED training, Career Net, financial aid for training, ALEX (Maryland Job Service), computer training, workplace etiquette, a pre-existing ex-offender employment network, job placement and retention training and mentoring.

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The arrangements that ECSM has made with American Works and Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake call for Goodwill to serve 100 ex-offenders and America Works to serve 75 of the hardest to place individuals.

“The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is very pleased to partner with the Episcopal Ministries on its Prisoner Reentry Initiative because it will benefit some of our ex-offenders most at risk of reoffending due to drug and alcohol addiction,” said Mary Ann Saar, Secretary of DPSCS.

“ECSM is proud to be the recipient of this PRI grant,” said Jean P. Cushman, Executive Director. “Together with our partners, we can make a significant difference in the lives of 200 ex-offenders in Baltimore City. Participants in ECSM’s Reentry Program will be well-trained to fill jobs in Baltimore and well-prepared to make a good adjustment to life outside prison. Federal funding for this program will mean taxpayer savings for Marylanders while helping people build a better future for themselves and Baltimore.”

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